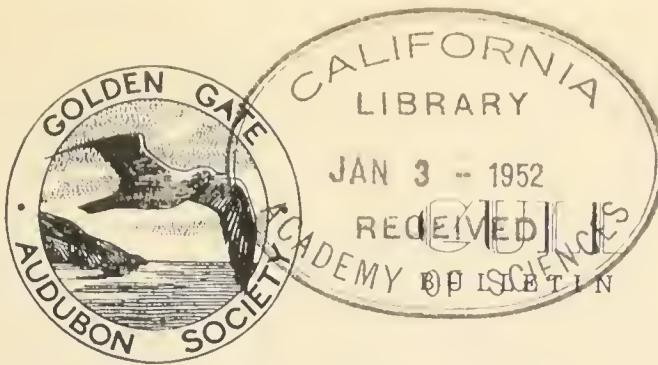


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### November — LAKE MERRITT — Trip

A brief interlude between storms, combined with a heavy influx of fish and fishing birds into the lake, helped to make a pleasant and interesting morning for about thirty members and guests who birded both on and around the Lake Merritt Waterfowl Refuge on Saturday, November 24th. By "on" the Refuge we meant the unprecedented walk to "Old Duck Island" which the temporary fill enabled us to take. It is hoped that by this time next year the old island will be rehabilitated and several new islands created from this fill and planted out. Meanwhile, privileged birders may invade afoot this hide-out of herons and egrets, or get closer to the fishing operations of cormorants, terns and Bonaparte gulls and to the diving ducks and grebes. Of course, the Curl 'scope will also bring the shyest of these birds even closer.

A fulvous tree duck captured at Hollister in early November, and the Australian black swans captured in October on the bayshore mud-flats were the latest attractions in the rare waterfowl pens, together with a male pintail first banded at the lake in 1928 and recaptured this fall. Then, just as we were breaking up at noon an orange-crowned warbler was spotted with Audubons in the live oaks near the Embarcadero. And not the least of surprises on this field trip was the appearance of a seventeen-day old visitor, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wolcott!

Seen on or near the shores of the lake were the following 33 species: Eared and pied-billed grebe; double-crested cormorant; American egret; black-crowned night heron; mallard; baldpate; pintail; canvas-back; lesser scaup; American golden-eye; buffle-head; ruddy duck; coot; killdeer; glaucous-winged, herring, California, ringbilled, short-billed and Bonaparte gull; Forster tern; Anna hummingbird; red-shafted flicker; chestnut-backed chickadee; robin; orange-crowned and Audubon warbler; house sparrow; Brewer blackbird; spotted and brown towhee; Oregon junco.

PAUL F. COVEL, *Park Naturalist, Oakland Park Dept*

## December — ORINDA LAKE — Trip

Twenty-seven people turned out for the trip on December 9. It was a crisp, clear day, with heavy frost on the golf course and ice on the mud puddles. At Orinda Lake there were no hooded mergansers, but at least two mockingbirds and many other land birds were seen on a circuit of the lake. An estimated 500 Canada Geese were seen at San Pablo Reservoir. A white-necked goose caused great excitement—was it a blue or an emperor?—but after looking it over carefully with telescopes we regretfully concluded that it was a partial albino Canada with the head and neck almost completely white. An unusual number of red-tailed hawks soared about. A visit to the second bridge on the Bear Creek Road yielded two sapsuckers. Part of the group visited St. Mary's College and were rewarded by seeing a Anth. green heron.

Fifty-nine species were identified:

|                               |                          |                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Western grebe                 | Calif. gull              | Robin                |
| Pied-billed grebe             | Ring-billed gull         | Varied thrush        |
| Double-cr. cormorant          | Mourning dove            | Hermit thrush        |
| Great blue heron              | Anna hummingbird         | Ruby-crowned kinglet |
| Anthony green heron           | Red-shafted flicker      | Loggerhead shrike    |
| Canada goose<br>(some lesser) | Acorn woodpecker         | Audubon warbler      |
| Mallard                       | Downy woodpecker         | West. meadowlark     |
| Baldpate                      | Nuttall woodpecker       | Red-winged blackbird |
| Pintail                       | Yellow-bellied sapsucker | Brewer blackbird     |
| Wood duck                     | Black phoebe             | House finch          |
| Ring-necked duck              | Say phoebe               | Amer. goldfinch      |
| Ruddy duck                    | Steller jay              | Lesser goldfinch     |
| Red-tailed hawk               | Scrub jay                | Spotted towhee       |
| Sparrow hawk                  | Amer. crow               | Brown towhee         |
| Calif. quail                  | Plain titmouse           | Oregon junco         |
| Coot                          | Bush-tit                 | Lark sparrow         |
| Killdeer                      | White-breasted nuthatch  | White-cr. sparrow    |
| Glaucus-winged gull           | Wren-it                  | Golden-cr. sparrow   |
| Herring gull                  | Bewick wren              | Fox sparrow          |
|                               | Mockingbird              | Song sparrow         |

— A. LAURENCE CURL, *Leader and Historian.*

## MEMORIAL DAY YOSEMITE TRIP

A three-day trip is being planned to Yosemite National Park on May 30 -- June 1, with the cooperation of Walter Fitzpatrick, GGAS member who lives there. This should be a good time of year to see the waterfalls as well as the birds. If you don't plan to camp out, get your reservations in as soon as possible for a cabin or hotel room (Call Yosemite Park and Curry Co., 39 Geary St., San Francisco 8). Plan to arrive on May 29 if possible as there will probably be a field trip on the morning of May 30.

## OBSERVATIONS

*Edited by JUNCA W. KELLY*

Yellow-bellied (red-breasted) sapsucker, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, 7 & 23; Belted kingfisher, Nov. 24, La Loma Ave., Berkeley, Frank A. Scotts. Horned owl, Nov. 16; Lark sparrow, Nov. 18; Western bluebird, Nov. 22, El Cerrito; Say phoebe, Nov. 22 near Pinole, A. Laurence Curl. Male & female hooded merganser, Nov. 28, Phenomenon Lake, Ross; 1 ruddy duck; 24 black turnstones; 10 surf-birds, Dec. 5, Cliff House, after the big storm. Junca W. Kelly.

**MAGAZINE ARTICLES:** Natural History, November 1951. "**The Versatile Terns**" by Lewis Wayne Walker. "The Arctic Terns nest within the Arctic Circle and winter on the fringe of the Antarctic". On Midway Island in the South Pacific "the bird population is so condensed that a tenement system is in vogue. At ground level the Sooty Terns scoop nesting hollows in the sand. Three to six feet above . . . the Fairy Terns . . . balance their eggs on bare branches . . . and far above in trees . . . the Hawaiian Noddy Terns select the swaying branches and build their robin-like nests . . . Along the Pacific shores of Southern and Baja California, the Least Terns . . . lay eggs on the dry sands behind the crowded beaches . . . The rookeries of the mixed Elegant and Royal Terns in the Gulf of California . . . are packed so closely together that the ground cannot be seen between them." "**The Emperors Who Came to Dinner**" by H. W. Reynolds. They arrived on the coast of Tierra del Fuego, South America, 1000 miles from their native land. "They came in early winter (May or June) after a period of storms . . . They stayed a year . . . and endeared themselves to their host—the only person who has ever entertained the world's largest penguins for so long."

## BEAR RIVER WILDLIFE REFUGE

For information regarding the Bear River Wildlife Refuge in Utah write to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for Catalog No. I-49.36:8, price ten cents. This contains a history and description of the area and lists the kinds of waterfowl found there—valuable information for those planning to visit the refuge.

**NATURAL SCIENCE COURSE** by Ferdinand Ruth, Biology professor, will start January 9th, at the Oakland Public Museum. Please send your enrollment (Fee \$ 5.00) promptly so that the quota may be met. If not met checks will be returned.

FRANK A. SCOTT, *Chairman, Education Committee*  
1508 La Loma Ave., Berkeley 8

**NEW MEMBERS:** We welcome the following; from San Francisco, Mr. Robert P. Chase, Mr. & Mrs. Edward A. Sibley; from Berkeley, Miss Clarion Moxon; from Alameda, Dr. & Mrs. Harry C. Mc Dade, Bob Traxler; from San Mateo, Mr. W. S. Snell; from Richmond Annex, Mrs. Mabel Steward.

## JANUARY MEETING

The 412th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on January 10th in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, at 7:30 P.M. Following the annual meeting, Mr. Howard L. Cogswell,

of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology on the University of California, Berkeley Campus, will speak on "Habitat Selection by Birds—Its Importance for the Birds and for Bird-students". Slides of western habitats will be shown. The public is invited. No-host dinner at the Hotel Whitcomb at 6 P.M.

MRS. FRANK A. SCOTT, *Program Chairman.*

### January — GRIDLEY - WILLOWS — Trip

On Saturday and Sunday, January 12 - 13, to the Grey Lodge Refuge near Gridley and the Sacramento Migratory Waterfowl Refuge near Willows. Come and see ducks and geese in tremendous numbers, also perhaps swans and cranes. On Saturday, January 12, meet at Grey Lodge Refuge, about 3 miles west and one mile south of Gridley at 11:00. The quickest route is probably U.S. 40 to Davis, 99W to Woodland, 24 to Yuba City and 99E to Gridley. Driving distance from Oakland is about 140 miles. Overnight accommodations are available nearby at Gridley, Colusa, or Willows. On Sunday, January 13, meet at the headquarters of the Sacramento refuge on the east side of route 99W about 8 miles south of Willows at 9:00. Bring plenty of warm clothes as it will probably be colder than in the Bay area. Leader, Harry Adamson.

### January — GOLDEN GATE PARK — Trip

On Saturday, January 19, to Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Meet at 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way on the south side of the park at 10:00. From downtown San Francisco on Market St. take either 71 or 72 bus and transfer to 73 bus at Haight and Stanyan Sts. Before lunch we will visit the Chain-of-Lakes, Spreckels and Lloyd Lakes, the Stadium and Metson Lake. After lunch, Stow Lake, the Japanese Tea Gardens and the Arboretum may be visited. Leader, Laura A. Stephens. Bring binoculars, lunch and interested friends.

### January — TIBURON - SAN QUENTIN — Trip

On Sunday, January 27, to the Tiburon and San Quentin peninsulas, Marin County. Meet at the Associated Service Station at the south end of Richardson Bay bridge at 9:00. From San Francisco take 8:15 Bolinas bus or 8:25 Mill Valley bus. Proceed by car caravan to Belvedere and Tiburon, and later to San Quentin, especially along the San Rafael-San Quentin road. If desired return to the Bay area via Sears Point cut-off (where kites are sometimes seen) and Vallejo. A large variety of water birds should be seen on this trip. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch and interested friends.

A. LAURENCE CURL, *Chairman,  
Field Trips Committee.*

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### Golden Gate Audubon Society

Organized January 25, 1917

### For the Study and the Protection of Birds Branch of National Audubon Society

President... Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds..... 140 Estates Drive, Piedmont 11, AN. 1-7121  
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Editor..... Miss Minnie H. Young..... 2726 Prince Street, Berkeley 5, HU. 3-3180

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

Joint Membership, Local & National \$5.00 per Year, includes Audubon Magazine  
Local dues only, \$1.50 per year